Mr. SPEAKER.—How does that arise?

Sri M. RAMAPPA.—Because they are officials, they will not hold an impartial enquiry.

Mr. SPEAKER.—What is the purpose served by arguing with me. The question is not relevant. The Hon'ble Member should connect it with the constitution of a non-official committee.

Loss to the Cultivators due to Death of Cattle in the Anthrax Epidemic in North Kanara District.

Q.—996. Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR (Belgaum).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the fact that a large number of cattle died on account of outbreak of epidemic of Anthrax in Supa Petha of North Kanara District;

(*b*) if so, the number of cattle that died of the epidemic and the estimated loss caused to the cultivators of that Petha;

(*c*) the precautionary measures they have taken to check the epidemic;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the stock of the required preventive serum in the Petha is quite insufficient;

(*e*) the steps they propose to take to prevent recurrence of such diseases in future?

A.—Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA (Minister for Agriculture).—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The mortality estimated is about 127 cattle and 508 buffaloes, the estimated cost of which may be about Rs. 30,000.

(*c*) Organising a campaign of preventive inoculation of cattle and buffaloes with Anthrax Vaccine and treating the ailing cases with penicillin and drawing large number of extra staff from the neighbouring Districts as well as from Bangalore City, under the direct control of the Deputy Director and disease Investigation Officer to combat the disease.

(*d*) No; but in the initial stage there was some delay in biologicals despatched by Railway parcel reaching the destination. Care has been taken to avoid such recurrence.

(*e*) It is not possible to prevent recurrence as immunity against Anthrax does not last long but necessary arrangements will be made to attend to such outbreaks promptly.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—Are the figures of mortality correct? The newspapers reported that thousands of cattle perished.

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—This is the official report. I would request the Hon'ble Member to rely on the official report.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—May I know how the report was collected?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—Mortality reports are sent by every village. The information is collected by the office.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—The point is whether the reports were received and collected from every village?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—Certainly. From every village.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—Does it not mean that there was no stock of serum in the initial stages?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—It has already been stated that at the initial stages, there was delay in the transmission of the serum.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—Does the Government then accept that there was no stock of serum in the initial stages?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—The serum was first despatched by parcel. Therefore there was delay. We then arranged to take it through rail and deputed some persons to take it.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—There were huge mortalities. Is the Government aware that the serum despatched did not reach the destination?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—I have no such information.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—What is the veterinary staff provided for the Petha?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—There is hardly one veterinary institution in

that taluk. That was one of the reasons for the mortality *i.e.*, there was lack of staff to meet or check the disease. Later on we sent an expert from this place. Then serum and about 40 men were sent from here.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—In view of the extensive area and the lack of communications in the petha, does not the Government think that the veterinary staff provided at present is insufficient?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—It is true. The present personnel is quite insufficient to meet such situations. Therefore we have made arrangements in each district to meet the contingencies which may arise every year.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—Is the Government aware that this epidemic of Anthrax has spread even to human beings?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—I am not aware.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—In view of the fact that this disease has spread even to human beings, what preventive action does the Government propose to take in this matter?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—That will be examined. The Hon'ble Member has not brought it to the notice of Government.

Sri V. S. PATIL.—So far as such emergency staff is concerned, may I know whether Government has any policy to train the persons who will be available at the nick of time?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—That is the policy of Government. The cost will be very heavy. Even then we want to take all precautions to meet such emergencies.

Dr. R. NAGAN GOWDA.—What is the mechanism of Government to send reports of outbreaks of epidemics immediately to the Veterinary Hospitals?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—The lack of it is one of the reasons for not taking effective steps immediately. Firstly, it was not reported to the Veterinary Officers and secondly the Department received information only after 15 days. Therefore, there was delay. Therefore, we have to make new arrangement to see that the report reaches the Veterinary Department immediately.

Dr R. NAGAN GOWDA.—In the meanwhile, have they any proposal to issue a circular to the village officers to communicate such outbreaks immediately to the Veterinary Officers?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—That will be considered.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—What financial aid was given to the cultivators in view of the fact that mortality was very high and the cultivators suffered very much?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—Sufficient loan has been sanctioned.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—How much?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—I am not aware of the extent of aid. At the request of the people sufficient loan has been advanced to the extent of more than a lakh of rupees.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—Was it loan in the form of tagavi?

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.—Yes.

Construction of a Building for Veterinary Hospital, Sivarapatna, Malur Taluk.

Q.—1063. Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY (Malur).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) when the present Veterinary Hospital was started at Sivarapatna in Malur taluk;

(*b*) whether a representation has been made for the construction of a hospital building for the purpose of running the hospital;

(*c*) the action taken by the Government on the representation for the purpose of constructing the Veterinary Hospital building?

A.—H. S. RUDRAPPA (Minister for Agriculture).—

(*a*) 27th June 1949.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The beneficiaries are being asked to raise contributions and complete the Type Design building partly built as early as possible.